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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLOOD).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 31, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE FLOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

HISTORY REPEATED ITSELF ONCE MORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today appalled and disgusted and brokenhearted. Like so many others, I am still struggling to process the sheer inhumanity on display in the murder of Tyre Nichols.

Last week, our Nation watched helplessly as another innocent Black man was beaten to death by men sworn to

serve and protect. In the final moments of his life, Tyre Nichols cried out for help as he struggled to understand what he possibly could have done to deserve such a fate.

As a mother, seeing Tyre cry out for his mom deeply pains me. As a Black woman, I am furious at the injustice that Black Americans face every day. As a human being, the vicious murder I have seen leaves me shaken to my core.

Tyre Nichols was a human being with a life as beautiful as any other. He was a photographer. He loved skateboarding. He was a son to a loving mother and a father to a 4-year-old son.

Tyre will never get to see his son grow up, and his son will never get another hug from his father.

I mourn Tyre, and I pray for his loved ones. I mourn Keenan Anderson, who invoked George Floyd's name when he, too, was killed by police this month. I mourn Elijah McClain, Philando Castile, Tamir Rice, and every other Black life stolen from us by police.

I have grown weary of my mourning, though, Mr. Speaker, because history has repeated itself once again.

The murder of Tyre Nichols comes 3 years after the murder of Breonna Taylor. It comes 9 years after the murder of Michael Brown. It comes 14 years after the murder of Oscar Grant. It comes 153 years after the murder of Henry Truman in 1870.

Nothing we can do will ever bring back Tyre Nichols, Daunte Wright, Eric Garner, or any Black American killed by a system that did not value their lives. We can, however, demand accountability and sweeping reforms from police departments that have built, maintained, and even encouraged a culture of brutality and even racism.

The time is now to reevaluate and reimagine the role of police in our community. We must stop waiting for justice and start doing our jobs.

As public servants, we have a duty to do right by our communities, even if that means starting the long, difficult process of reforming and restructuring our justice system. It is the duty of the Federal Government to ensure that law enforcement is used to protect communities, not tear them apart.

Last Congress, the House passed the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, but the Senate blocked it from becoming law. That was a disappointment, but it cannot be a defeat.

This Congress, we have a new opportunity to end qualified immunity and protect our communities. However, that opportunity will not seize itself.

House Republicans have spent endless time and resources establishing committees for conspiracy theories but have offered zero solutions to the rising tide of police brutality. I call on all of my colleagues to commit or recommit themselves to fixing the fundamental flaws in the fabric of our justice system. If we fail to do so, our society will forever be one in which police are seen as an occupying force instead of a force for good.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA SMITH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, throughout the course of our lives, we are both blessed and fortunate to cross paths with and befriend individuals who harbor a profound sense of dedication toward serving others and their communities. To me and countless others, Virginia Smith of Stokes County, North Carolina, is one of those people.

This year, she will retire as the chairwoman of the Stokes County Republican Party, a position she has held since 2003.

To know Virginia is to know someone who lives and breathes the meaning of possessing a servant's heart.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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From organizing events with her church to her civic involvement within her community, wherever Virginia goes, you know that she is on a mission to serve, and she will not be deterred in that mission.

Truly, she is a community-driven woman. I cannot overstate her rock-ribbed conservatism and how she has always espoused, promoted, and shared both the values and principles upon which our constitutional republic was founded.

The simple truth is that we need more Virginia Smiths in this world.

Her work as chairwoman and as a proud member of the Stokes County community has helped lay a foundation upon which our future leaders, the young men and women of today, can grow and thrive.

Mr. Speaker, as Virginia enters this new and exciting chapter of her life, may she know that she has left an indelible mark upon the lives of so many people, me included. I am confident she will continue to do so.

May God continue to bless her and her family in the days ahead.

REASONABLE RAISING OF DEBT CEILING

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, with \$31.4 trillion in national debt, House Republicans are committed to finding a solution that is reasonable, sensible, and responsible regarding raising the debt ceiling.

President Biden would be irresponsible not to negotiate. We must finally address Washington's reckless government spending if we want to put America on a better fiscal path.

After 2 years of reckless deficit spending, the Biden administration is refusing to negotiate with Republicans to protect taxpayers and solve our Nation's debt crisis.

Democrats accelerated spending following the last massive debt limit increase. After passing the largest debt limit increase in American history, it took Democrats only a little over a year to max out the Federal Government's credit card again.

Democrats outspent record-high revenue. Despite record-high revenues from the Republican-passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Federal spending has continued to balloon, increasing by \$10 trillion over the last 2 years, a record for a new President.

There is a bipartisan path forward. Instead of refusing to negotiate, Democrats need to join Republicans in crafting a plan that protects taxpayers. All eight major spending reforms since 1985 have been attached to debt ceiling legislation.

We must be, again, as Republicans say, reasonable, sensible, and responsible regarding raising the debt ceiling. We call on President Biden and the Democrats to join us in this effort.

CELEBRATING WIND RIVER TRANSFER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for my rural community and celebrate the passage of the Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act.

Before being sworn into Congress, I acted with my predecessor, JAIME HERERA BEUTLER, Senator CANTWELL, and members of the Skamania County Commission to pass the Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act in the fiscal year 2023 spending bill.

As a Skamania County resident, I know that only 1.8 percent of our land is fully taxable for generating necessary revenue for community services. The Wind River Administrative Site Conveyance Act transfers 24 acres back into the county land base and increases opportunity for small businesses in our community.

I thank my predecessor, JAIME HERERA BEUTLER, and Senator CANTWELL for leading this effort. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass similarly important legislation.

RECOGNIZING REPAIR CLARK COUNTY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to be a voice for my community and share with you the importance of Repair Clark County.

Repair Clark County is a nonprofit organization that rejects the premise that when things break, we just throw them out, that we are helpless consumers reliant on an endless cycle of cheap goods.

I was lucky to attend one of their events on January 21, and I saw a little girl light up when her favorite night-light was fixed instead of being thrown away. What an amazing gift to teach this child that we can have a relationship of stewardship with our belongings, not just consumerism.

These volunteers uphold our values of stewardship and self-sufficiency because, in America, DIY is in our DNA.

I thank Terra Heilman, the head of Repair Clark County, for spearheading this effort.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work on Federal legislation that ensures all consumers have the right and the ability to maintain and fix their own stuff.

RECOGNIZING IURBAN TEEN

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the iUrban Teen organization for creating an incredibly diverse talent pipeline in my district.

iUrban Teen provides skills training for teens and young adults and gives them access to career pathways and alternatives that they need to be successful and have more opportunities.

For example, the Future Teachers Pathway program brings together Vancouver Public Schools, Washington State University Vancouver, and Clark College to mentor students and give them the training they need to succeed in their chosen career paths.

This is so critical for young people who face challenges and gives them the support they deserve in their efforts to

become critical members of our community.

For the past 13 years, iUrban Teen has hosted a breakfast on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. I was honored to attend their event.

I thank the iUrban Teen team for bridging the gap for students and inspiring all of us to keep working for change.

HONORING MIKHAIL PAVENKO

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mikhail Pavenko, a resident of Vancouver, Washington.

In 1996, Mikhail emigrated from Ukraine to Vancouver, and he has proudly worked as a lineman for the Clark County Public Utilities since 2014, literally keeping the lights on in my district.

Mr. Pavenko has recently taken on a new role. Since the conflict between Ukraine and Russia began, he has returned to Ukraine more than a dozen times to serve as a volunteer military chaplain.

Mikhail is and continues to be a beacon of light for many during times of untold suffering. He inspires Ukrainians on the front line to keep the faith and keep up the fight, and he simultaneously reminds all of us that democracy is worth fighting for.

I cannot thank Mr. Pavenko enough for his service to the people of Ukraine as they stand together against authoritarianism.

CONGRATULATING THE COLUMBIA RIVER RAPIDS GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a big shout-out to the Columbia River Rapids girls volleyball team. They are doing an incredible job. I am so excited to share this on the House floor.

The Rapids girls volleyball team won the 2A State title in three sets, finishing an amazing season for the volleyball team. The entire tournament, they only lost one set. What makes this even more notable is they were a No. 6 seed, and they defeated three higher seeds to attain this title.

These incredible young women played an impressive season and have made me and our whole community very proud.

Congratulations to the Columbia River Rapids girls volleyball team on their amazing accomplishments. I am so excited to see what they will do next season.

HONORING BROTHER FRED WOLFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CARL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of a dear friend of mine, Brother Fred Wolfe.

Fred Hartwell Wolfe was born December 5, 1936, in Rock Hill, South Carolina, and he passed away on January 3, 2021. I was standing on this very floor being sworn in the moment they let me know he had passed away.